

WI-263  
First National Bank of Maryland  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1930

The First National Bank of Maryland, formerly the Salisbury National Bank, occupies a prominent Beaux-Arts building located on a principal corner in the central business district. The colossal Doric columns rise to a large stone pediment featuring a shield and eagle emblem flanked with swags. The main entrance to the bank commands visual attention as well with its Ionic pilasters that rise to broken scrolled pediment. The main body of the bank is executed in Flemish bond brick with a molded watertable defining the base of the building. Large round arched windows stretch across the St. Peters Street elevation. The old Salisbury National Bank stands in stark contrast to two other contemporaneous bank buildings located on the opposite side of West Main Street. The former Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Salisbury and the old Eastern Shore Trust Company both feature limestone facade executed in the Art Deco style.

The site on which the First National Bank stands is well known as the former location of the Peninsula Hotel, a large three-story brick building erected shortly after the 1886 fire. The Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that the first floor contained small shop space for a candy and jewelry stores as well as a dining room and kitchen. The upper floors were divided into hotel rooms. After the hotel burned in the mid 1920s, the directors of the Salisbury National Bank acquired the lot and financed the construction of

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this prominent Beaux-Arts building. The building program of this impressive brick and stone bank was executed by the Tilghman Moyer Company of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: First National Bank of Maryland

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-2~~6~~3

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Modern Period  
1930-

4. Resource Type(s): Commercial Block

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-263

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Salisbury National Bank

and/or common First National Bank of Maryland

**2. Location**

street & number 201 West Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name First National Bank of Maryland

street & number 201 West Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 1030  
liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state Md 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. *N1-263*

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The First National Bank of Maryland is located at 201 West Main Street on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Main and St. Peter's streets in the central business district of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay by six-bay brick building faces south.

Estimated to date around 1925-30, the two-story Beaux-Arts bank building is dominated by a colossal columned portico that fronts a rectangular Flemish bond brick block covered by a flat roof. The base of the building is defined by a molded watertable, and the principal corners feature brick quoins.

The south (main) elevation is defined by a series of four Doric limestone columns, and wall pilasters behind each column, that rise to a classical pediment. Centered on the front wall is the main entrance, which is framed by a large stone Colonial Revival frontispiece that features a broken scrolled pediment. Ionic pilasters rise to a cushion frieze. A carved pineapple is fixed in the center of the broken pediment. Located above the entrance arch is a multi-paned, round arched window that is accented with a soldier and rowlock arch fitted with a keystone at its center. Large twenty-four-pane windows are located to each side of the entrance and feature brick jack arches. Each arch has a marble keystone. The second floor of each side bay is marked by a squarish sixteen-pane window framed by a molded brick surround with crossetted corners.

The pediment is executed in stone and features a dentiled crown molding. Highlighting the center of the tympanum is a carved shield and eagle draped in flanking swags. The Flemish bond parapet wall above the pediment is capped with stone. The soffit of the pediment has a paneled finish.

The west side of the bank is completely obscured by the adjacent commercial block. The east side, however, is fully exposed to St. Peter's Street. Six bays across, the principal corners are accented with brick quoins. Large, round arched window openings stretch two floors in height. Extending across the top of the windows is a stone cornice with a dentiled bed molding. Fixed above outside bays are stone panels with swag relief carvings.

The back of the building, which fronts West Church Street, contains a rear entrance on the northeast corner. A stone surround frames the glazed door entrance. Twenty-four pane windows pierce the rear wall, which is trimmed in a like manner to the rest of the building.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

WI-263

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The First National Bank of Maryland is clearly eligible for listing in *Category A*, due to its high architectural integrity and principal location of this prominent downtown corner lot. The building stands in stark contrast to two other contemporaneous bank buildings that stand on the opposite side of West Main Street. The former Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Salisbury and the old Eastern Shore Trust Company both feature limestone facade executed in the Art Deco style.

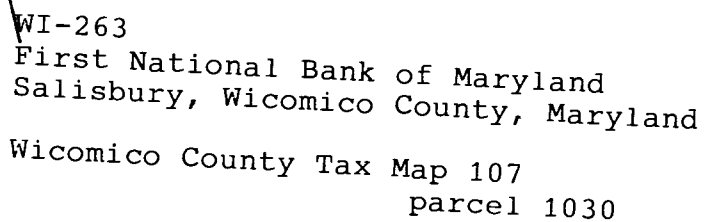
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1 Sanborn Insurance Company maps, (1904) Salisbury, (Maryland State Archives).

2 Cooper, Richard W. *Salisbury in Times Gone By*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, Inc. 1991), p. 319.

3 W. C. Thurston, ed. *Salisbury: The Capital of the Eastern Shore* (Salisbury: Little Journeys, 1931) Wicomico County Free Library.





A horizontal scale bar with a black and white checkered pattern on the left end. The text "SCALE IN FEET" is written above the bar. Below the bar, there are numerical markings: 200, 0, 200, 400, and 600. The bar is divided into segments of 200 feet each, with the first segment being checkered and the others being solid black or white.



WI-263

First National Bank of Maryland

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle

1942

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860' NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

